

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04756 220555Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W  
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R 220314Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2502  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NZ  
SUBJ: MOYLE AFFAIR: RELEASE OF INQUIRY FINDINGS

REF: WELLINGTON 4195

SUMMARY: CONCLUSIONS OF JUDICIAL INQUIRY REQUESTED BY OPPOSITION LEADER ROWLING IN WAKE OF EARLY NOVEMBER "MOYLE AFFAIR" MADE PUBLIC DECEMBER 21. FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY CONDUCTED BY SIR ALFRED NORTH, FORMER PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEALS, ARE SALUTARY FOR PRIME MINISTER MULDOON, EMBARRASSING FOR ROWLING AND THE LABOUR PARTY AND PERHAPS POLITICALLY DISASTROUS FOR FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER COLIN MOYLE. END SUMMARY.

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) FOLLOWING A PARLIAMENTARY ROW WHICH DEVELOPED NOVEMBER 4 WHEN PRIME MINISTER MULDDON ALLEGED THAT FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER COLIN MOYLE HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE FOR HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITES (SEE REFTEL), GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AGREED TO CONSTITUTE AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER, INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF THE TRUTH OF VARIOUS CONFLICTING CHARGES AND THE HANDLING OF CONFIDENTIAL POLICE REPORTS. SIR ALFRED NORTH, FORMER PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEALS, WAS CHOSEN TO CONDUCT INQUIRY, AND THE ORTH REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC DECEMBER 21.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 04756 220555Z

2. SIR ALFRED FOUND THAT MOYLE HAS IN FACT OFFERED FOUR DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO POLICE ACCOUNT PREPARED IN JUNE 1975, MOYLE SUGGESTED TO UNDERCOVER CONSTABLE ON NIGHT PATROL IN WELLINGTON THAT CONSTABLE "HOP IN" TO MOYLE'S CAR AND THAT THEY GO "TO MY PLACE...AT ORIENTAL PARADE". CONSTABLE THEREUPON IDENTIFIED HIMSELF. MOYLE TOLD CONSTABLE HE WAS WAITING

FOR FRIEND TO COME OUT OF THE LIBRARY AND THOUGHT THE MAN MIGHT BE THE FRIEND. THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, MOYLE WENT TO CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT WELLINGTON POLICE AND OFFERED EXPLANATION THAT HE WAS MEETING HOMOSEXUALS "IN ORDER TO BETTER EQUIP HIMSELF FOR A DEBATE" IN PARLIAMENT ON SUBJECT OF TREATMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS. THIRD VERSION GIVEN TO PARLIAMENT WHEN MOYLE EXPLAINED INCIDENT AS RELATING TO HIS OBSERVATIONS OF SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER WHO HE THOUGHT TO BE "CAT BURGLER". WHEN MOYLE CAME BEFORE SIR ALFRED HE EXPLAINED PREVIOUS INCONSISTENCIES BY OFFERING YET A FOURTH VERSION, I.E. THAT HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ABLE TO DIVULGE THE REAL FACTS BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ENDEAVORING TO CONTACT UNKNOWN INFORMANT WHO WAS TO HAVE SUPPLIED HIM WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING SECURITY LEAKS AND IMPLICATING DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER. NORTH REPORT CONCLUDES FROM FOREGOING VERSIONS THAT QUOTE I FEEL OBLIGED TO SAY THAT MR. MOYLE'S BELATED ATTEMPT TO CLEAR HIMSELF FROM ANY SUGGESTION OF BEING INVOLVED IN HOMOSEXUAL INCIDENT WAS LARGELY OCCASIONED BY HIS ANXIETY NOT TO BE ACCUSED OF HAVING LIED TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN PARLIAMENT. UNQUOTE.

3. IN OTHER PORTIONS OF REPORT, NORTH FINDS THAT: (A) THERE WAS NO BREACH OF RULES OR PRACTICE IN HANDLING OF POLICE FILES; (B) ONLY MINISTER TO HAVE SEEN POLICE FILE ON MOYLE WAS MINISTER OF POLICE IN PREVIOUS LABOUR GOVERNMENT: (C) ATTEMPT BY MOYLE TO PRESENT TOTALLY NEW EXPLANATION OF HIS CONDUCT WAS "UNWISE AND BOUND TO FAIL"; (D) MOYLE HAD WRITTEN TO MULDOON'S ACCOUNTANCY FIRM IN LATE NOVEMBER WITHDRAWING AND APOLOGIZING FOR REMARK HE HAD MADE ABOUT ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF FIRM. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

4. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) COMMENT: WITH LITTLE QUESTION, MULDOON EMERGES FROM THE MUCK OF THIS INCIDENT "SMELLING LIKE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WELLIN 04756 220555Z

ROSE". IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE NORTH REPORT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY MORE SALUTARY FOR MULDOON OR FOR HIS IMAGE AS A TOUGH BUT STRAIGHT-TALKING POLITICAL SCRAPPER. ROWLING, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEARS FROM THE REPORT TO HAVE BEEN MISLED AND POORLY INFORMED, AND HIS FORMER MINISTER OF POLICE TO HAVE BEEN INEPT IN NOT ADVISING THE THEN PRIME MINISTER OF THE POLICE INVOLVEMENT OF A FELLOW CABINET MEMBER. FOR MOYLE, THE REPORT MAY BE THE DEATH KNELL OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER. WHILE HE INSISTS HE WILL NOT RESIGN HIS PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, THE PRESSURE FROM WITHIN HIS PARTY FOR HIM TO DO JUST THAT IS CERTAIN TO INCREASE. AT A MINIMUM, IT IS PROBABLY SAFE TO SAY THAT MOYLE WILL NOT AGAIN RISE TO A LEVEL OF LEADERSHIP IN THE LABOUR PARTY. END COMMENT. SELDEN  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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